

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-04 FEA-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1891

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, ENRG, PL, NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN PREMIER VISITS POLAND

REF WARSAW 6357 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY: NORWEGIAN PREMIER TRYGVE BRATTELI VISITED POLAND OCTOBER 19-24 AT THE HEAD OF A DELEGATION INCLUDING THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND HANDICRAFTS AND OTHER OFFICIALS. BRATTELI WAS RECEIVED BY FIRST SECRETARY GIerek AND COUNCIL OF STATE CHAIRMAN JABLONSKI AND CONFERRED WITH PREMIER JAROSZEWCZ, FOREIGN MINISTER OLSZOWSKI, AND FOREIGN TRADE AND MARINE ECONOMY MINISTER OLSZEWSKI. INVITATIONS FOR RETURN VISITS BY GIerek AND JAROSZEWCZ WERE ACCEPTED. IN ADDITION
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TO VISITING KRAKOW AND THE GDANSK-GDYNIA PORT REGION, BRATTELI

CONCLUDED WITH THE POLES A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AND ANOTHER ON HEALTH COOPERATION WAS PROMISED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. PRESS COMMENTARY, THE COMMUNIQUE, AND THE TEXT OF THE "LONG TERM PROGRAMME," OBTAINED FROM THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY HERE, INDICATE THAT THE VISIT LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR BROAD EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH THE SPECIFICS REMAIN TO BE ELABORATED. A NORWEGIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL, ASSESSING THE VISIT FOR US, STRESSED THAT IT TRANSPRIRED IN A FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH SOME EFFORT WAS MADE TO AVOID CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. COOPERATION IN OIL EXTRACTION IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED OCTOBER 25 (ASSUME TEXT AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT). HOWEVER, THIS SUBJECT IS MENTIONED IN THE AGREEMENT, WHICH WE ARE POUCHING TO THE DEPARTMENT AND OSLO, AND THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY OFFICER SAID IT HAD FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN THE OFFICIAL TALKS. HE INDICATED THAT THE POLES MIGHT CONTRIBUTE DRILLING RIGS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF NORWEGIAN OFF-SHORE OIL, IN RETURN FOR A SHARE OF THE OIL AND GAS PRODUCED. HOWEVER, NORWAY IS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF OIL ALLOCATIONS TO ANY COUNTRY, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL, SO SPECIFIC TERMS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT.

3. SHIPBUILDING AND SUPPLY OF SHIPS' EQUIPMENT ARE AMONG OTHER SIGNIFICANT ITEMS IN THE AGREEMENT. THE NORWEGIAN OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT LICENSES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOLD BY NORWEGIAN SHIPBUILDING COMPANIES TO THEIR POLISH COUNTERPARTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF LNG AND LPG VESSELS. NORWEGIAN SHIPBUILDERS WILL GET A ROYALTY BASED ON WHAT PROFIT MARGIN THEY WOULD EXPECT IF THEY BUILT THE SHIPS THEMSELVES. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS EXPECTED THAT NORWEGIAN PURCHASERS WILL GET THE SHIPS FROM POLAND AT LESS THAN THE WORLD PRICES, ALTHOUGH NO SPECIAL DISCOUNT IS ENVISAGED.

4. A SIMILAR PROJECT INVOLVES CONSTRUCTION OF A FACTORY IN SZCZECIN TO BUILD SPECIAL TANKS FOR STORAGE AND TRANSPORT OF LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS. UNDER THE TENTATIVE PLAN, NORWEGIAN FIRMS WOULD SUPPLY THE INVESTMENT CAPITAL IN RETURN FOR PAY-
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MENT IN KIND. OUR CONTACT INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT QUESTIONS, SUCH AS THAT OF OWNERSHIP REMAIN UNRESOLVED. HE CITED THIS PLAN AS ONE OF SEVERAL THAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED UNDER THE GENERAL RUBRIC OF "JOINT VENTURES," BUT ADDED THAT THE POLES SEEM TO VIEW SUCH ARRANGEMENTS MERELY AS A MEANS OF GETTING CREDITS WITHOUT PERMITTING A SHARE IN THE OWNERSHIP. THOUGH DUBIOUS, HE NEVERTHELESS EXPECTED THE ARRANGEMENT TO EVENTUATE. HE STRESSED AS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, AN ADDITIONAL LIMITATION

RELATIVE TO THE WHOLE RANGE OF COOPERATIVE PROJECTS BEING DISCUSSED--NAMELY THAT THE POLES WILL HAVE TO SECURE THE SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS AND CAPITAL DIRECTLY FROM NORWEGIAN FIRMS. THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT CAN ONLY PROVIDE ITS BLESSINGS AND ENCOURAGEMENT, SINCE IT LACKS AN "EXIMBANK" FACILITY, HE NOTED.

5. THE VISA QUESTION (REFTEL) WAS NOT RAISED BY THE POLES, AND OUR CONTACT OPINED THAT THEY HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT IT. HE EXPLAINED THAT SINCE LAST JUNE WHEN THE POLES RAISED THE SUBJECT IN OSLO, THEIR ENTHUSIASM HAS WANED CONSIDERABLY. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID THAT THE NORWEGIANS HAD BEEN PREPARED TO CONCUR IF THE POLES HAD PROPOSED VISA ELIMINATION. HE ADDED THAT DURING BRATTELI'S PRESS CONVERENCE HERE A POLISH JOURNALIST WHO ASKED THE PREMIER WHY NORWAY "BLOCKS" VISA ELIMINATION WAS TOLD IT IS NOT NORWAY BUT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT THAT IS RELUCTANT TO PROCEED. THIS EXCHANGE WAS NOT PUBLISHED.

6. THE NORWEGIAN OFFICIAL AMPLIFIED SEVERAL POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE COMMUNIQUE, SAYING THAT THE MOST SERIOUS DIFFERENCES WERE OVER CYPRUS AND THE MIDDLE EAST. ON THE FORMER, THE POLES PROPOSED LANGUAGE INDICATING THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD SUPPORT "NON-ALIGNMENT" FOR CYPRUS, WHICH THE NORWEGIANS REJECTED. SIMILARLY, THE NORWEGIANS DELETED LANGUAGE CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS. THE ALSO REJECTED LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY THE POLES THAT WOULD HAVE IMPLIED RECOGNITION OF THE DIVISION OF GERMANY.

7. THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS A LENGTHY PASSAGE ON LOS, A SUBJECT WHICH THE NORWEGIAN CLAIMED THE POLES HAD RAISED BY PROPOSING A SIMPLE STATEMENT PROMISING THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD ADHERE TO THE CONVENTION WORKED OUT AT THE LOS CONFERENCE. THE NORWEGIANS SUCCEEDED IN FUZZING THIS POINT THROUGH A LENGTHY
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FORMULATION EXPRESSING THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF "SOLUTIONS CAPABLE OF GENERAL ACCEPTANCE AND BASED ON A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEEDS AND THE JUSTIFIED INTERESTS OF ALL GROUPS OF STATES." EXPLAINING HIS COUNTRY'S POSITION, THE NORWEGIAN OFFICIAL NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT INTENDS IN JANUARY 1975 TO ESTABLISH 50-MILE TRAWLING ZONES BEYOND ITS CURRENT 12-MILE FISHING LIMIT AND PLANS TO MOVE TOWARD A 200-MILE LIMIT AFTER COMPLETION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. HE INDICATED THAT THE POLES ARE STRENUOUSLY OPPOSED TO THIS.

8. REGARDING FUTURE VISITS, THE POLES HAVE INDICATED THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEND GIEREK TO NORWAY, PERHAPS IN THE FALL OF 1975. THEY ARE NOT SO INTERESTED IN A VISIT BY JAROSZEWCZ, ACCORDING TO THE NORWEGIAN OFFICIAL, ALTHOUGH PRESUMABLY THE PREMIER MIGHT VISIT LATER. THE NORWEGIANS WOULD PREFER THAT

BOTH VISIT TOGETHER AS THEY PLAN TO DO IN THE CASE OF FINLAND, ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACT.

9. COMMENT: THE VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE GONE WELL FROM THE STAND-POINT OF BOTH SIDES, JUDGING FROM THE ENTHUSIASTIC POLISH PRESS TREATMENT AND THE ATTITUDE OF OUR NORWEGIAN COLLEAGUE. THE MAJOR QUALIFICATIONS ARE THE APPARENTLY TOUCHY VISA ISSUE, THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE DISPUTES ON LOS, AND THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS THE POLES MAY HAVE IN NAILING DOWN AGREEMENTS WITH NORWEGIAN FIRMS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM. ON LOS, OUR NORWEGIAN COLLEAGUE SEEMED TO BE RESERVING THE RIGHT NOT TO ABIDE BY THE CONVENTION EVENTUALLY WORKED OUT IN THE CONFERENCE.

DAVIES

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